

# Our Living and Our Dead.

VOL. II.

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## Southern War Poetry.

In this column we desire to publish such poetry as is commemorative of events which occurred during the war, or of the sentiments and feelings of those who participated in it, and memorial sketches in verse of gallant officers and men who fell in battle, or signally distinguished themselves. Our supply of poetry on hand is less than any other material, and we respectfully ask those who have such as is suited to the purpose for which we design this column to add to our small stock. North Carolina can boast of several (ladies and gentlemen) who have poetical talents of high order, and from them we should be pleased to hear at all times.

### THE SUNNY LAND.

BY APPLETON OAKSMITH OF CARTHER.

"Bury me, boys, on the field"—Wheat.

A Confederate refrain, written to commemorate the last words of the writers friend Col. Rob Wheat—originally published in the Houston Telegraph 1873.

The battle was over and the death-trodden plain  
Slept calm beneath the sun's dying ray,  
As a wounded soldier lay writhing in pain  
Who cried as his life ebbed away.

I die for the South—for the dear Sunny South—  
For the not or that said, "never yield!"  
And I only ask that you bear hear my sword  
And bury me, boys! on the field.

They buried him there where the twilight spread  
Its gloom like a pall o'er the sky—  
And there let her sleep with the unknown dead  
In the spot where a soldier should lie.

He died for the South—for the dear Sunny South—  
For the cause that never could yield  
And they bore that mother his unconquered sword  
And buried him there on the field.

And that mother looks forth from her lone cottage door  
And watches the troops filing by  
And she sighs that Fate hath left her no more  
On the field for their country to die.

She gave her all for the dear Sunny South  
Her hope, her comfort, her shield  
And she looks on his sword with a mournful pride  
When they buried away on the field.

There are some whom their country will never forget  
When her Freedom at last shall be won  
And the hero's wreath on the brow shall be set  
Of the mother who gave up her son.  
For we will all die for the dear Sunny South  
We never, no never will yield  
And we only ask, if perchance we may fall,  
That you bury us, boys, on the field.

### LANE'S N. C. BRIGADE.

After the battles around Richmond, this brigade encamped below that city for a short time and was then ordered to Gordonsville, near which place it remained until just before the battle of Cedar Run, in which battle it bore a very conspicuous part, as will appear from the following report:

HEADQUARTERS BRANCH'S BRIGADE,  
A. P. HILL'S DIVISION,  
August 15, 1862.

Maj. R. C. Morgan, Asst. Adj. Gen.

Sir—I have the honor to report that, on Saturday, 9th August, whilst on the march to Culpepper Court House, I was ordered to halt my brigade and form in line of battle on the left of, and at right angles to the road. The formation was scarcely completed before I was ordered to advance in line through the woods and thick undergrowth a heavy musketry fire being heard not far from my front. I then proceeded about one hundred yards when I commenced meeting the men of a brigade which had preceded me, retreating in great disorder, and closely pursued by the enemy.

Opening ranks to permit the fugitive to pass, and pressing forward in unbroken line, my brigade met the enemy, who had already turned the flank of Gen. Taliaferro's brigade, which was on the right of the road. Not in the least shaken by the panic cries of the fugitives, and without halting, my brigade poured volley after volley into the enemy, who broke and fled precipitately through the woods and across the field. On reaching the edge of the field, I discovered the enemy in force on the opposite side, and halting brigade in an eligible position, opened fire along the whole line. For a time the enemy stood their ground, but we were within good range across an open field, and the execution we were doing (clearly perceptible to the eye) compelled them to commence breaking. Now it was that their cavalry attempted to charge Gen. Taliaferro's brigade, which had partially rallied, after I had cleared their flank. The cavalry moved diagonally across my front, presenting to me their flank. The combined fire of Taliaferro's brigade in front, and mine in flank, broke up the column and sent it flying to the rear. My brigade immediately moved forward in pursuit of the retreating enemy, and whilst I was hesitating in the field, in doubt in what direction I should take, Maj. Gen. Jackson came up, and by his order, I changed front so as to incline to the right, and pushed on to a point some distance in advance of the battle-field, at which he had ordered me to halt.

The battle having terminated in a complete rout of the enemy, my men slept on the ground they had so bravely won.

My officers and men behaved finely, and I refrain from dissimulations. Such was their steadiness, that I was able to preserve my line of battle unbroken throughout the day.

Capt. J. T. Hawks and Lieut. J. A. Bryan, of my staff, were with me, and conducted themselves gallantly.

Your obedient servant,  
L. O'B. BRANCH, Maj. Gen.

Extracts From Other Official Reports.

CAMP NEAR LIBERTY MILLS,  
HEADQUARTERS 2d BRIGADE,  
1st DIVISION, A. V. D.

Maj. W. T. Taliaferro, Asst. Adj. Gen.  
1st Div.

\* \* \* With coolness and determination, the regiments on the right delivered their fire, keeping a superior number of the enemy at bay. Firing now commenced on the left, and hastening to the position occupied by the 1st Virginia battalion, I discovered the enemy in heavy force rapidly advancing, not more than 50 yards from our front, bearing down upon us also from the left, delivering, as they came, a most galling fire. Unable to withstand this fire from front and flank, the 1st Virginia battalion gave way in confusion, and rendered abortive any efforts of its corps of gallant officers to reform it. Finding our left turned, I rode up to Maj. Lane, commanding the 42d, and ordered a change of front to meet the evening in this new direction; but, before this could be executed, he fell mortally wounded, and the movement could not be accomplished before the enemy had commenced a fire in their rear, producing some disorder and confusion. The other regiments, all the while engaged in front, were also attacked in rear, now that the left flank was turned producing much disorder in their ranks. Reinforcements coming up, portions of the different regiments were reformed and assisted in driving the enemy discomfited from the field.

THOMAS S. GARNETT,  
Lt. Col. comd'g 2d brig., 1st div. A. V. D.

HD. QRS. 1st BRIG. VA. VOL. V. D.  
August 15, 1862.

W. D. Taliaferro, A. A. G.

\* \* \* Arriving at the woods in his retreat, the enemy attempted to reform his line, which I determined to prevent by following him up; but at this moment, I was informed that the enemy had turned the left of the second brigade, (which I supposed until that moment, rested on the right of the first brigade,) whereupon I immediately directed a change of front, which was done as promptly as it could be under the circumstances, which enabled me to engage this flank movement of the enemy. But Gen. Branch's brigade coming up at this moment, his line being perpendicular to the road, while the line of the first brigade was parallel. General Branch opened a vigorous fire upon the enemy, which soon succeeded in driving him from his position. He was here compelled to pass through a large grain field in his retreat, which exposed his broken columns to a deadly cross fire from this and Branch's brigade.

CHAS. A. RONALD,  
Col. Comd'g 1st Brigade.

HD. QRS. 1st DIV. VALLEY ARMY,  
LIBERTY MILLS, VA. Aug. 15, 1862.

Capt. A. S. Pendleton, A. A. G.

\* \* \* The third brigade advanced in fine style, and the enemy gave way before the severity of its fire. At this moment I discovered that, owing to the fact that the first brigade had not moved sufficiently near originally, or that the order had not reached Col. Ronald in time, the enemy had attacked the left wing of the second brigade and turned it, and that it was falling back in some disorder. This movement exposed, also, the left flank of the third brigade, and caused it to fall back; but it was soon afterwards brought back to its original position. At this critical moment the first brigade moved up, and with Gen. Branch's brigade, of Gen. Hill's division, encountered the enemy, confused by their severe conflict with the second brigade, and drove them back with terrible slaughter. The third brigade now advanced to the brow of the hill overlooking the corn field, and the second brigade to the edge of the woods, and drove the enemy in front of them from their positions in confusion. To cover his retreat, the enemy's cavalry charged the third brigade; but they were met by such a shower of missiles that the whole column was turned, wheeled to the right, and before it could be wheeled off to the rear was forced to run the gauntlet of the other brigades, and scattered in every direction with heavy loss.

WM. B. TALIAFERRO,  
Brig. Gen. Comd'g First Division.

HD. QRS. LIGHT DIVISION,  
CAMP GREEN, March 8, 1863.

Col. C. J. Faulkner, Assistant Adjutant General.

\* \* \* \* \*  
My order of march was Thomas, Branch, Archer, Pender, Stafford and Field. Arriv-

ing within about six miles of Culpeper O. H., the heavy firing in front gave notice that the battle had commenced. I was then directed by Gen. Jackson to send a brigade to the support of Taliaferro, who was in line of battle on the right of the main road—Thomas was sent on this duty, and formed his line immediately in front of Taliaferro's. Lieutenant Colonel Walker placed Pegram's and Fleet's batteries in eligible positions in front of Early's brigade, (Gen. Taliaferro's right,) Branch, Archer and Pender, as they came up, were successively formed on the left of the road. Winder's brigade, immediately in front of Branch, being hard pressed, broke, and many fugitives came back. Without waiting for the formation of the entire line, Branch was immediately ordered forward, and passing through the broken brigade, received the enemy's fire, promptly returned it, checked the pursuit, and in turn drove them back, and relieved Taliaferro's flank. The enemy, driven across an open field, had rallied in a wood skirting it. Branch was engaging when Archer came up, and, with Pender on the left, the enemy were charged across this field, the brigade of Archer being subjected to a very heavy fire. Gen. Thomas, on the right, had been ordered by Gen. Jackson to the right to support Early's brigade. Quite a large portion of both Early's and Taliaferro's brigades had been thrown into confusion, some of the regiments standing firm, the 14th and 21st Virginia and 12th Georgia. Thomas formed his line of battle along a fence bordering a corn field, through which the enemy were advancing. After a short contest here, the enemy were hurled back. Pegram's and Fleet's batteries, the latter under command of Lieut. Hardy, did heavy execution this day, and drove back several attempts to capture their guns. The 14th Georgia, under the gallant Folsom, having become separated from the rest of the brigade, by our fugitives, charged the enemy, and with brilliant success. The enemy had now been driven from every part of the field, but made an attempt to retrieve his fortunes by a cavalry charge. Their squadrons, advancing across an open field in front of Branch, exposed their flank to him, and, encountering a deadly fire from the 14th Georgia and 12th Virginia, had many saddles emptied, and fled in utter disorder.

A. P. HILL, Maj. Gen.

HD. QRS. 2ND CORPS, A. N. V.  
April 4, 1863.

Brig. Gen. R. H. Chilton, Assistant Adjutant and Inspector General.

\* \* \* During the advance of of the enemy to the rear, the guns of Jackson's division becoming exposed, they were withdrawn. At this critical moment Branch's brigade, of Hill's division, with Winder's brigade further to the left, met the Federal forces, flushed with their temporary triumph, and drove them back with terrible slaughter through the wood. The fight was still maintained with obstinacy, between the enemy and the two brigades just named, when Archer and Pender coming up, a general charge was made, which drove the enemy across the field into the opposite woods, strewing the narrow valley with their dead. In this charge, Archer's brigade was subjected to a heavy fire. At this time the Federal cavalry charged upon Taliaferro's brigade with impetuous valor, but were met with such determined resistance by Taliaferro's brigade in its front, and by so galling a fire from Branch's brigade in flank that it was forced rapidly from the field, with loss and in disorder.

T. J. JACKSON, Lt. Gen.

HD. QRS. ARCHER'S BRIGADE,  
August 14, 1862.

\* \* \* On arriving near the point where General Jackson's division was already engaged, I proceeded to form line of battle in the woods to the left of Branch's brigade, which completed its formation and advanced before my line was half formed. Supposing that I would be wanted in front immediately, I moved forward with the 1st Tennessee and 19th Georgia regiments, 5th Alabama battalion and 7th Tennessee in line, leaving the 14th Tennessee, which was in rear, to come up into line and overtake the brigade as best it could. I advanced several hundred yards in this manner, obliging towards the right, in order to get near the left of Branch's brigade, when I overtook its left regiment, which had become separated from the main body. In passing to the front of this regiment my line became somewhat broken, and halted a few minutes for it to reform.

During the time thus employed, Colonel Forbes' 14th Tennessee regiment came up into line, and I rode to the road, about fifty yards on my right, to ascertain whether they were ours or the enemy's troops firing them. I found it was Branch's brigade, on the right of the road, and in a line even with that of my own, halted, and firing at an enemy in front.

J. L. ARCHER, Brig. Gen.

Gen. James H. Lane's report of the operations of this gallant brigade from the battle of Cedar Run to the close of the first Maryland campaign, will appear next week

## Report of Maj. Gen. D. H. Hill.

HEADQUARTERS DIVISION.

Gen. R. H. Chilton, A. A. General.

GENERAL—I have the honor herewith to report the operations of my command from the battles around Richmond until after the battle of Sharpsburg.

On the 23rd of July I was detached from my division, and placed in charge of the department of the south side, extending from Drewry's Bluff to the South Carolina line. As Gen. McClellan was then at Westover on the James, some thirty miles from Richmond, and it was thought that he might attempt an advance to the south side, my first attention was given to the defenses in that direction. Heavy details were made from the division and two brigades near the bluff, to complete a line of fortifications around it, and controlling the Petersburg road. Not a spade full of earth had been thrown up around Petersburg, and it was in a wholly defenceless condition. A system of fortifications was begun (which subsequently met the approval of the chief engineer, Col. J. F. Gilmer, C. S. A.) and the brigades of Robert Ransom, Walker and Daniel, were put to work on it. About a thousand negroes were procured, chiefly from North Carolina, and employed in like manner, Pontoon bridges were constructed at various points to make the connection rapid and secure, between the positions to be secured. The defenses of the Appomattox were also strengthened, and a movable car planned and ordered to prevent a landing at City Point. An effort was made to organize and make efficient the numerous independent companies in the department, which had been of little use and of much expense to the country. A concentration of these troops at Weldon and Goldsboro' was ordered to prevent the cutting of our important lines southward.

In accordance with instructions from the General commanding Army of Northern Virginia, I made a personal examination of the yankee shipping and encampment, on the 28th instant, and determined to attack it from Coggins' Point and Myer's on the South side. This expedition was entrusted to Brig. Gen. French, and was a complete success. Forty-three pieces, under command of General Pendleton and Col. J. T. Brown, were placed in position on the night of the 31st, on the banks of the river within easy range of the objects to be reached. Much damage was done to the yankee shipping, some destruction of life caused in the camp, and the wildest terror and consternation produced. The report of Gen. French is herewith submitted. This officer had charge of the expedition, agreeably to the wishes of Gen. Lee. Doubtless, the night attack had much to do with the evacuation of Westover, as it made McClellan feel that his shipping was insecure. Two days after he took possession of Coggins' Point, and maintained a force on the south side till he left the river. His gunboats were attacked at the mouth of the Appomattox, and points were selected for the further harassing of his shipping. An expedition was sent out, under Col. J. R. Chambliss, to within two miles of Suffolk. Arrangements were made for the defence of the Blackwater, Chowan and Tar rivers, and a point selected for fortifications on the Roanoke to secure Weldon.

On the 21st August, I left Petersburg to join the army in northern Virginia, and given command of McLaws' division and three brigades of my own division at Hanover Junction. The brigades of Ripley and Colquitt, of my division, were in advance of us, at Orange C. H. On the 26th of August, we left Hanover Junction, and joined Gen. Lee at Chantilly, on the 2d of September, three days after the yankees had been finally and decisively beaten in the second great battle of Manassas.

On the 4th, Anderson's brigade was sent to fire on the yankee trains at Berlin, and, with two brigades, we drove away the yankee forces near the mouth of the Monocacy and crossed the Potomac.

That night and the next day were spent in destroying the lock and canal banks. The aqueduct could not be destroyed for want of powder and tools. The night of the 5th, my division followed Gen. Jackson to within a few miles of Frederick. The General being disabled by the fall of his horse, the next morning I was placed in charge of all the forces, and marched into Frederick. The telegraph wires were cut and the station seized. A few stores and prisoners were taken in the city.

On the 10th, my division constituted the rear-guard, and had charge of the immense wagon train moving in the direction of Hagerstown. On the 13th, I was ordered by Gen. Lee to dispose of my troops so as to prevent the escape of the yankees from Harper's Ferry, then besieged, and also to guard the pass in the Blue Ridge, near Boonsboro'. Maj. Gen. Stuart reported to me that two brigades only of the yankee were pursuing us, and that one brigade would be sufficient to hold the pass. I, however, sent the brigades of Garland and Colquitt, and ordered my other three brigades up to the neighborhood of Boonsboro'. An examination of the pass, very early in the morning of the 14th, satisfied me that it could only be held by a

large force, and was wholly indefensible by a small one. I accordingly ordered up Anderson's brigade. A regiment of Ripley's brigade was sent to hold another pass some three miles distant, on our left. I felt reluctant to order up Ripley and Rodes from the important positions they were holding, until something definite was known of the strength and designs of the yankees. About seven o'clock, they opened fire upon our right, and pushed forward a large force through the dense woods, to gain a practicable road to our rear. Garland's brigade was sent in to meet this overwhelming force, and succeeded in checking it, and securing the road from any further attack that day. This brilliant service, however, cost us the life of that pure, gallant and accomplished Christian soldier, Gen. Garland who had no superiors, and few equals in the service. The yankees, on their side, lost Gen. Reno, a renegade Virginian, who was killed by a happy shot from the 23d North Carolina. Garland's brigade was badly demoralized by his fall, and the rough handling it had received, and had the yankee pressed vigorously forward, the road might have been gained. Providentially, they were ignorant of their success, or themselves too much damaged to advance. The 20th North Carolina, of this brigade, under Col. Iverson, had attacked a yankee battery killed all the horses, and driven off the cannons. This battery, was used no more that day by the yankee.

Anderson's brigade arrived in time to take the place of the much demoralized troops of Garland. There were two mountain roads practicable for artillery on the right of the main turnpike. The defence of the further one had cost Garland his life. It was now entrusted to Col. Rosser, of the cavalry, who had reported to me, and who had artillery and dismounted sharpshooters. General Anderson was entrusted with the care of the nearest and best road, Bonduant's battery was sent to aid him in its defence. The brigade of Colquitt was disposed on each side of the turnpike, and that, with Lane's battery, was judged adequate to the task. There was, however, a solitary peak on the left which, if gained by the yankees, would give them control of the ridge commanding the turnpike. The possession of this peak was, therefore, everything to the yankees, but they seemed slow to perceive it. I had a large number of guns from Cutt's artillery placed on the left of the hill on the turnpike to sweep the approaches to this peak. From the position selected there was a full view of the country for miles around. But the mountain was so steep that ascending columns were but little exposed to artillery fire. The artilleryists of Cutt's battalion behaved gallantly, but their firing was the worse I ever witnessed.

Rodes and Ripley came up soon after Anderson. Rodes was sent to the left to seize the peak already mentioned, and Ripley was sent to the right to support Anderson. Several attempts had been made previous to this, by the yankees, to force a passage through the woods on the right of, and near the turnpike. But these were repulsed by the 6th and 27th Georgia and the 13th Alabama, of Colquitt's brigade. It was now past noon, and the yankees had been checked for more than five hours. But it was evident that they were in large force on both sides of the road, and the signal corps reported heavy masses at the foot of the mountain. In answer to a dispatch from Gen. Longstreet I urged him to hurry forward troops to my assistance. Gen. Drayton and Col. G. T. Anderson came up. I think, about three o'clock, with one thousand nine hundred men, and I felt anxious to beat the force on my right before the yankees made their grand attack, which I feared would be on our left. Anderson, Ripley and Drayton were called together, and I directed them to follow a path until they came in contact with Rosser, when they should change their flank, march in line of battle and sweep the woods before them. To facilitate their movements, I brought up a battery and made it shell the woods in various directions. Anderson soon became partially, and Drayton hotly engaged. But Ripley did not draw trigger—why, I do not know. The 4th North Carolina (Anderson's brigade) attempted to carry a yankee battery, but failed. Three yankee brigades moved up in beautiful order against Drayton, and his men were soon beaten and went streaming to the rear. Rosser, Anderson and Ripley still held their ground, and the yankees could not gain our rear.

Affair were now very serious on my left. A division of yankees were advancing in handsome style against Rodes. I had every possible gun turned upon the yankee columns, but owing to the steepness of the acclivity and the bad handling of the guns, but little harm was done to the "restorers of the Union." Rodes handled his little brigade in an admirable and gallant manner, fighting for hours, vastly superior odds, and maintaining the key points of the position till darkness rendered a further advance of the yankees impossible. Had he fought with less obstinacy, I am satisfied that it could only be held by a

would have been gained on our left, and the line of retreat cut off.

Col. Gordon, the Christian hero, excelled his former deeds at Seven Pines, and in the battles around Richmond. Our language is not capable of expressing a higher compliment.

Gen. Rodes says the men and officers generally behaved well, but Col. Gordon, 6th Alabama, Maj. Hobson, 5th Alabama, and Col. Battle, 2d Alabama, deserve especial mention for admirable conduct during the whole fight. We did not drive the enemy back or whip him; but, with one thousand two hundred men, we held his whole division at bay for four hours, and a half, without assistance from any one, losing, in that time, not more than half a mile of ground.

He estimates his loss at four hundred and twenty-two, out of one thousand two hundred taken in action, but thinks that he inflicted a three-fold heavier loss on the yankees. Col. Gayle, of the 12th Alabama, was killed, and Col. O'Neal, 24th Alabama, and Lieut. Col. Pickett, of the 12th, severely wounded.

Maj. Gen. Longstreet came up about 4 o'clock with the commands of Brig. Gens. Evans and D. R. Jones. I had now become familiar with the ground and knew all the vital points, and had these troops reported to me, the result might have been different. As it was, they took wrong positions, and, in their exhausted condition after a long march, they were broken and scattered. Our whole left was now fairly exposed, and the yankees had but to push down to seize the turnpike. It was now dark, however, and they feared to advance.

All the available troops were collected behind a stone wall, to resist an approach upon the turnpike from the left. Encouraged by their success in that direction the yankees thought it would be an easy matter to move directly up the turnpike. But they were soon undeceived. They were heroically met and bloodily repulsed by the 23d and 28th Georgia regiments of Colquitt's brigade.

The fight lasted for more than an hour after night, but gradually subsided as the yankees retired. Gen. Hood (who had gone in on the right with his two noble brigades) pushed forward his skirmishers and drove back the yankees. We retreated that night to Sharpsburg, having accomplished all that was required—the delay of the yankee army until Harper's Ferry could not be relieved. Should the truth ever be known, the battle of South Mountain, as far as my division was concerned, will be regarded as one of the most remarkable and creditable of the war. The division had marched all the way from Richmond, and the struggling had been enormous, in consequence of heavy marches, deficient commissariat, want of shoes, and inefficient officers. Owing to these combined causes, the division numbered less than five thousand men on the morning of the 14th September, and had five roads to guard, extending over a space of as many miles. This small force successfully resisted, without support, for eight hours, the whole yankee army, and when its supports were beaten, still held the roads, so that our retreat was effected without the loss of a gun, a wagon, or an ambulance. Rodes' brigade has immortalized itself; Colquitt's had fought well, and the two regiments met, closely pressed, (23d and 28th Georgia) had repulsed the foe with slaughter; Garland's brigade had behaved nobly until demoralized by the fall of its gallant leader, and being outflanked by the yankees; Anderson's brigade had shown its wonted gallantry; Ripley's brigade for some cause, had not been engaged, and was used with Hood's two brigades to cover the retreat.

Had Longstreet's division been with mine at daylight in the morning, the yankees would have been disastrously repulsed. But they had gained important positions before the arrival of reinforcements. These additional troops came up after a long, hurried and exhausting march, to defend localities of which they were ignorant, and to fight a foe flushed with partial success, and already holding key points to further advance. Had our forces never been separated, the battle of Sharpsburg never would have been fought, and the yankees would not have even the shadow of consolation for the loss of Harper's Ferry.

We reached Sharpsburg about daylight, on the morning of the 26th. The yankees made their appearance that day, and some skirmishing and cannonading occurred. There was a good deal of artillery firing during the forenoon of the 16th; and late that afternoon, the yankees crossed the Antietam, opposite the centre of my line, and made for Hagerstown turnpike. Had we been in condition to attack them, as they crossed, much damage would have been inflicted. But as yet there were but two weak divisions on the ground. Longstreet held the position south of Boonsboro' turnpike, and I that on the right. Hood's command was placed on my left to guard the Hagerstown pike. Just before sundown, I got up a battery (Lane's) of a practicable artillery road to the rear

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